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T H E

Game at Picquet ;

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MEMORIAL

TO THE

G R E A T B R I T A I N S .



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5 June 1707

THere are few Men who are really Protestants, but are sensible what steps have been taken by the Church of Rome, to Extirpate, and utterly root out the Reform'd Religion in General; and that it has been the Practice, as well as the Opinion of the Court and Clergy of France, that whatsoever Leagues, Necessity (as they Term it) obliges their King to make with any Protestant Prince or Nation, He is no longer engaged by such, than till he finds himself in a Condition to break with them again.

It is needless now indeed to enquire into the Reasons, why this Nation, the Bulwark of the Protestant Interest, was render'd so incapable of Defending it self, and much less the Protestants abroad, when we saw the French King every where augmenting his Troops, and forming such Designs that fell very little short of overrunning Europe at once.

But as the calling to your remembrance the subtil Intreague of France at that time, and the base and perfidious Actions of some Men among us, may, it's to be hoped, be a Means to forewarn us, that we are not Ensnar'd by their Devices for the Future. The French King is sensible of the Resolution of the Confederates, to give him a push on all sides early next Year; and that Her Majesty, the Queen of Great Britain, is well assured, That it is she, and Her Kingdom he aims at, as well as the Settlement of the Spa-

nish Monarchy; and Maintains one to whom he gives the Title of King, at his own Charge, in Opposition to the Laws of your Land, and Her Majesty's Right to the Crown; and wants but an opportunity that he may Insult both Her Majesty and you, if you don't readily agree to his Exorbitant Demands, in the Manner his Imperial Minister has Treated the Government of Neuschatel.

These are the Considerations which no doubt have Engaged Her Majesty and Her Council to an extraordinary Activity and Diligence to contrive, and put in Execution, such unexpected Means whereby the Enemy might be most sensibly Touch'd, for the sake of Her People, and to put a speedy period to this Bloody War, in Order to procure for them a firm and lasting Peace.

To frustrate these Noble and Generous Resolutions of Her Majesty, you must depend the French Court will leave no Stone unturn'd to aggravate such Matters amongst you, as he thinks will be most agreeable to the Humours of those, who to conceal their own Mismanagement, will it's to be fear'd, too readily embrace every Occasion to frustrate the good Intention of others, as by raising of Jealousies among you, in hopes to discourage your Resolutions from Supporting Her Majesty in the Measures Resolved upon by the Confederacy, for a more Vigorous Prosecution

tion of the War, early in the Spring, or in hopes at least to dwindle away time by frivolous Debates, in order to hinder the Dispatch of the Publick Funds, till the Effects of them become of little Use, or the Enemy in a Condition to Oppose you.

It may be thought Uncharitable to suggest, that any Man can be so basely Treacherous to his Country, or so fond of Slavery himself, as to betray his Liberty to an Arbitrary Enemy — But sure I am, the King of *France* has added more Towns and Countries to his Conquests, by influencing such Wretches, than ever his Troops prevail'd over by the Sword: Which brings me to observe some Passages in *England*, between the conclusion of the late Peace at *Reswick*, and the Declaration of this War, which I shall Contract in as short a Compass as I can.

No sooner was the Peace last mentioned concluded of, but immediately an Alarm run thro' out all the Kingdom, of the Inconsistence and Danger of a standing Army — Just in like manner was the Kingdom of *Spain* over-run by the *Africans*, through the Subtilty of one of their *Grandees*; who to revenge himself for the King's Deflowring his Daughter, sets his Emissaries at Work to Prepossess the People, that the King had a design to Invade their Liberty, insomuch that the People grew every day more Jealous of his Government: And the Priests at last had the Impudence to Insult their Prince from the Pulpit.

The Council advises the King to consent to the Disbanding his Army, and Disarming his Gallies, as the only means to Establish his Peace in the Kingdom. And as there is no Man less Apprehensive of Injury to himself, than he that intends none to others; So the King, who had a greater Concern for the Uneasiness of his Subjects, than regard to his own Security, immediately Consented to their Advice, and leaves himself Naked and Defenceless.

When on a suddain, this Worthy Patriot to his Country, feigns an Excuse to the King, and desires leave to retire into the Country on some Affairs of his own; Takes Shipping near *Gibraltar* and sail'd for *Barbary*; Returns with an Army of *Moors*, puts all to the Sword who resisted him; and March'd Directly to Attack the King, who by this time had rais'd what Force he could to defend himself. The King's Army was Routed, and himself Slain in the Battle, and the *Moors* took Possession of the Kingdom.

Thus many People have drawn themselves in to Slavery, not knowing how to Use their Liberty well; too readily adhering to the Insinuations of Prejudic'd and Ambitious Minds. I leave the Application of this Story to the Consideration of those, in whose Power it is to improve it, and return to my last Proposal.

The King came over presently after the Peace was concluded — Not that he flatter'd

himself or you, that the Peace which he had made was inviolable, but urg'd to you the Necessity to be upon your Guard.

He was only glad to Convince you, That the Malicious Reproaches he and his Friends met with at Elections, and indeed to his Face; how that he prolong'd the War to Enrich the *Dutch*, and Satisfie his own Inclination, were false and Groundless. And to shew you how ready he was to embrace any reasonable Opportunity to give you a respite from so long and tedious a War; or Loud might your Clamours then have been of your Money being carried to *Holland* — but told you that it lay incumbent upon you to secure the Peace which GOD had given you.

You were early enough inform'd of the Precariousness of the then King of *Spain's* Health; and of the Means the *French* King was making Use of in Favour of the *Dauphin*, whose Right he Insisted upon.

And you your selves were not ignorant of the Ill Consequences that would attend your Trade to the *straights*, in Case of a Union between *France* and *Spain*.

And who but *England*, in a matter which so nearly concern'd your own Interests, when you knew the *French* King was Marching his Troops to the Frontiers of *Spain*, would not have March'd an Army to the Frontiers of *France*, and have oblig'd the *French* to have recall'd those Troops, rather than at that juncture of time to Disband your Troops, and leave your selves quite Defenceless? And with what Scorn and Contempt was the King rewarded for the Services he had done you in the Person of his Guards, who with himself had ventur'd their Lives in Defence of your Liberties — Base Ingratitude!

Was this the way to Secure your Country, and the Zeal you boast of to Monarchy and Crown'd Heads, which you so often twit other People in the Teeth of; or was there no other way to Preserve the Church of *England*, than by Actions so unworthy the Character of an *English* Man? Is it not Admirable how Indefatigably some People labour'd to Amuse the Honest and Well-meaning Men among you, by Jealousies and Distrusts of one another, Insinuate that the repeated Remonstrances of the King, and the continual Alarms our News Papers were for two Years together fill'd with from abroad of the *French* King's preparations for this War, were only the Devices of Self-Interested Men, till *Spain*, the *Milaneze*, and the *Spanish Netherlands* were seiz'd upon; several Imperial Cities were seiz'd by the Elector of *Bavaria*, in the very Heart of the Empire, the Cities of *Bonne* and *Keyserwart* deliver'd up to the *French* by the Elector of *Cologne*, and the States of *Holland* in a manner forc'd to a Neutrality; and even your selves at the very brink of Destruction. And so fond were the same Men of their new Game at *Piquet*, and that Flattering, Fawning Mounseur T——d, the Golden Assurances he

gave them of his Master's Integrity, and the regard he had to his Good old Friends in *England*. That truly it became a Crime of the highest Nature to say the *French* King had not a Right to what ever he saw fit to Demand.

And every Honest *English* Man, who was moved thro' Zeal to his Country, and a Sense of our Approaching Danger, to speak of it, or to offer any thing for our Security; He was presently branded with the Character of a Schismatick, and Fanatick, and said to be Forming a Design against the Church; and the King Publickly Affronted, because he was of Opinion, that a Part of *Spain* was sufficient for the King of *France*, finding himself reduc'd to a Condition not able to prevent his taking the whole.

Is it not to these Unhappy Delusions that this Bloody War we are now Engag'd in owes its rise, in which so much Treasure has been already spent, and the Lives of many Thousands of Men been made a Sacrifice to?

Are not the Affairs of *France* now, much more Precarious than at that time? He had then no Armies to Encounter with, only to put in Execution the subtil Devices of the Devil, whereby the Unwary, and oftentimes the Innocent and Inoffensive part of Mankind are Deluded.

But now he finds the Sword drawn against him on every side. And how much more Reasonable then is it for us now to expect the like Intreagues? Either to gain time, or to obstruct, if Possible, what is most Needful to be done: And from the hints already given it is to be fear'd there are too many amongst us eager enough to undertake the Work for him.

At Her present Majesty's coming to the Crown, (whom GOD preserve) how did some Men caress and fawn upon her! and how they have treated her since for not complying with their unreasonable Demands, their own Works will remain for a perpetual Memorial of— That is of their base and unworthy Tempers.

What Pains and trifling Objections did the same Sort of Men make to obstruct her Majesty's noble Intentions to assist the *Camisars*, as the readiest Means long before now to have drawn the War out of *Italy*, and to have favour'd the Designs of setting King *Charles* upon the Throne of *Spain*.

With what profound Secrecy and Steadiness of Resolution, for *England's* Glory as well as Good, did her Council concert that ever to be remember'd Expedition to the *Danube*, which at one Blow reliev'd the Empire from the very Jaws of Destruction; Drove the haughty Elector of *Bavaria* at least 500 Miles before them to seek for Refuge, and brought the Imperious *Tallard* Home with them, a Victim to their Conquest.

Yet before the Blow was struck, how did these Men buzz into the Heads of every one, the ill Consequences that might attend so hazardous an Expedition, not that we must suppose them un-

der any real Concern what became of the Army but expecting a Miscarriage, were in Hopes thereby to have something to accuse the Duke of, and they who advis'd it.

But GOD, who knew the wicked Secrets of their Hearts, and the Sincerity of her Majesty, that it was for his Glory and the Wellfare of her Subjects, that she consented to the Expedition, made the Duke the happy Instrument of one of the greatest Victories, that ever *England* could boast of, nor could any thing less Honourable have been done to acknowledge his Services, than what has been.

Yet the Men, I am speaking of, were so far from thinking he serv'd them by beating the *French*, that they publickly refus'd to thank him for his Pains; and at the coming over of the first Express of that Action, a certain Man raps out an Oath, we are all undone by G--d, says he, The Duke of *Marlborough* has beat the *French* to the D--l, and Count *Tallard* is taken Prisoner.

Quickly after this was thrown in amongst you, that subtle Device of *High Church* and *Low Church*, and then follow'd one of the boldest Attempts, that ever People made upon themselves, when engaged in War, in attempting to tack the Occasional Bill to a Money-Bill—Being the same, as if they had told the QUEEN. *Madam*, unless you will resolve to pursue such Measures, as we shall see fit, you shall not have Money to defend your self.

Sure, Gentlemen, such Allarms as these made it high Time for her Majesty to distinguish her Friends from her Foes, and earnestly press forward the Uniting of her good Subjects, as well for her own Security as for Yours.

And so apprehensive were they of the Mortification that would attend all their Cunning, in Case the Union should be perfected, that in how many different Forms and preposterous Shapes did they represent it to you? He that goes to the Meeting, drops a Tear, and makes a hideous Moan to the Bishops, what Danger they are in by it; and those of the *High Church* endeavour'd to persuade the *North Britains*, that their Kirk would be ruin'd by Episcopacy, if they agreed to it.

To the Merchant a thousand little trifling Arguments were urg'd in Prejudice to Trade; and to the Populace in general, that their ancient Privileges and Properties would be destroy'd by it.

Can Union obstruct your Happiness? or is it not giving our Blessed Saviour the Lye, Who in the Holy Gospel tells us, That a House divided against it self, cannot stand? Is not Union amongst your selves the only Means to strengthen you against the Designs of your Enemies at Home, and Invasions from Abroad? Will it not enable you to establish a free Currency of your Trade, and once more to retrieve the ancient Honour and Glory of *England* (now Great *BRITAIN*) to be belov'd.

belov'd by your Friends, and fear'd of your Enemies? And has it not totally defeated the Designs of those, who in all Probabillity would have taken the Opportunity of the Separation of the two Kingdoms, to have thwarted your Succession after her present Majesty's Decease? What makes the King of *France* fear'd? Is it not the Strength of his Kingdom? And what supports that Strength? Is it not the Union among his Subjects, and in that they obey well?

Is there any Manner of probable Grounds for those scandalous Suggestions of the Church being in Danger? Or can any Man think, Her Majesty, who was bred and educated under the Discipline of it, and has already had so many Glorious Successes attend her Reign, will be guilty of any thing so unworthy the Continuance of 'em, or to occasion the Reproach of her Memory, whenever it shall please GOD to deprive us of the Happiness of her Government?

And to what End do you imagine her Majesty and her Council harrass themselves with Affairs from all Parts of *Europe*, but in order to establish the Peace and Tranquillity of her People, and the Protestant Religion in general? — Or is there the least Delay in any Part of the Confederacy, that they don't immediately enquire into the Cause, and study Means whereby to remove it, even beyond the Bounds she is limited to, of which our News-Papers do frequently furnish us with fresh Instances? Are not the Letters and Memorials to the Government of *New-chattel*, sufficient Testimonies of the steady and unbiass'd Resolution of her Ministers, both here and abroad?

Has not her Majesty frequently from the Throne express'd her deepest Concern, for the great Sums She is oblig'd to ask from her People?

And are you not your selves sensible by the growing Power of *France*, (by Uniting that Kingdom with *Spain*, if not prevented) of the Necessity there is for them?

Has She not, in Compassion to the great Charge her Subjects are at in this War, retrenched her Family, and limited the Expence of her House to that of a private Person; that she may be the better able to ease you, by applying what she can of the Revenue given her for maintaining the Glory and Honour of the Court of Great Britain; and that her Enemies, by peeping into her Pantry and Kitchen, may not also say of her, that she consumes the publick Money in Dainties and Rarities?

In short, has there been any thing neglected, that may convince you, *How inseparable her Interest is from Your's?*

Is there the least Grounds for Suspicion, that the Duke of *Marlborough* has neglected his Duty? Or can we believe, he is unsensible, that

it is for the Honour of his Memory to have his Mistress the greatest Prince, that ever sat upon the *English* Throne, as she by the Blessing of GOD upon his Endeavours has rais'd him to be one of her greatest Subjects?

Are our Memories so treacherous as to forget so soon the Battle of *Ramellies*, which in an Instant humbled the haughty Court of *France* to sue for Peace? But her Majesty, (not being liable to those malicious Reflections as was King *William* on the like Occasion) look'd upon the Offer as an Occasional Stratagem, therefore contemn'd it accordingly. And how generous and noble has that Resolution since been executed in the un-imagin'd (both to our Selves and Enemies) Enterprize upon *Toulon*? But if GOD has been pleas'd to with-hold the Success from us this Year, he has so frequently bless'd us with; it is not that the Government has been wanting to the Means, but that we have been wanting in our selves in a due Acknowledgment of them, and we ought rather to humble our selves, that GOD may be pleas'd to avert his Judgments, than to fly in the Face of Divine Justice for our own Unworthiness. For, says the Text, *Oh that my People had hearkned unto me, and Israel had walked in my Ways, I should soon have subdued their Enemies, and turned my Hands against their Adversaries*, Psalm 81. 13, 14.

To conclude the Whole,

The present State of the *French* Affairs are now such, as will oblige him to make Use of all the subtil Stratagems throughout the whole Confederacy, that possibly their Court can devise, and especially in G——— B———

They will have a Knock at every Nail, and that which they find goes the easiest, — they will follow their Blow titely, till they cry again, and expect what has been, may be; They will tell you, The Union will be damn'd, the Church fall, the QUEEN, and the Bishops turn Presbyterians, and Somebody will run away with all your Trade in their Pockets, to *Terra Incognita*; and no body knows, who has eat up all your Liberties and Properties.

It will be told you, how your Money has been misapply'd, and that your Ships have been taken at Sea, and aggravated perhaps by those who have been the Occasion they were taken.

How Generals have been guilty of playing Truant at School, and Places sold by Women in the World in the Moon.

These are the Bug-bears, they now frighten people with, and I hope, you will accept of the Caution; assuring you, Gentlemen, I have no other Ends in offering it to you, than to desire of you, as an honest true *Britain*, that you will give them the Reward as they deserve.

And whenever they fall into your Way, that you won't set your Foot over them.

